Doctor-patient ratio

687. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present doctor-patient ratio in urban as well as rural areas of the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per Medical Council of India, the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 6, 83, 582. Thus the allopathic doctor-population ratio at present works out to 1:1634. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to 1:870 approximately. The data relating to the doctor-patient ratio in rural as well as in urban areas in the country is not maintained. However, the doctor-patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required *i.e.* indoor/outdoor. There are 269 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 30,922 students who add up to the existing medical manpower. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the main aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the population.

Herbal medicine for diabetes

688. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the study commissioned by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has revealed that an ayurvedic compound-Enicostema Lillovele(EL)-locally known as 'Mamejo' herb can control glucose; and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to produce 'Mamejo' commercially for public which can cure diabetes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has undertaken a study on efficacy of Enicostema littorale (Mamejo) under its 'New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative Programme' for the management of Type 2 Diabetes mellitus. Commercial use of any drug is allowed after satisfactory safety and toxicity studies.